

# Breage Parish Council



## Annual Report 2024/2025

May 2025

Parish Rooms

Breage

HELSTON

TR13 9PD

Tel: 01326 574781/07767165077

E-mail: [clerk@breagepc.org.uk](mailto:clerk@breagepc.org.uk)

Website: [https:// www.breagepc.org.uk](https://www.breagepc.org.uk)

### Chairman's Report 2024/25

This year has once again been a very busy and interesting year for Breage Parish Council. By now you will all know who your Ward member is at Cornwall Council Mr Jay Hodgetts and at the end of the evening you will know the composition of Breage Parish Council and its committees.

Mrs Carol Macleod, Breage Parish Council Clerk and Responsible financial Officer is to retire from her post after 18 years' service. The Councillors and all the Parishioners who have had occasion to seek her guidance will miss her wise counsel. We wish her well in her retirement.

She is to be replaced by Mr David Rutherford a local resident from Germoe. Mr Rutherford has had an extensive turnover period which includes an ongoing commitment to obtaining a Cilca qualification in local council administration. Apart from providing the Council with a fully qualified Clerk it allows Breage Parish Council to submit an application to be recognised as a council of General Competence under the 2011 Localism Act. It is also a requirement that a significant

number of Councillors have submitted themselves for election.

Success in this application allows the council to exercise a greater variety of functions within its power.

Breage Parish Council has welcomed Chris Tyler, Lynne Tyler, Gordon Smith and Catherina Oxford-Pope as councillors during 2024 with one resignation Cllr Nikki Roberts. Cllr C Oxford - Pope has since tendered her resignation post the notification of returning members without election to this Council. Cllr Matt Southam, Cllr Rosie Rogers, Cllr Tony Best did not seek re-election at the recent election in order to allow new parishioners to be elected should they wish to contribute to their community by serving, unfortunately people did not come forward. We are fortunate that they have all submitted to be co-opted back to the Council for a further four years. Their knowledge and contribution to the administration of the Parish is very much appreciated. Mrs Sarah Orpin continues to keep the parish rooms spick and span. With careful budgeting and financial control we have managed to keep the precept at a zero percent increase whilst discharging all of our statutory functions, building and maintaining our reserve and completing the

capital projects outlined in last year's report. The Breage Parish accounts have just, in April, been certified by the auditor. Additional land has been purchased in order to continue to discharge our functions as a burial authority. This area has been enclosed by a Cornish hedge and roll top fencing with appropriate gates and will be cultivated during the Spring. The play and exercise areas at Breage, Ashton and Praa Sands continue to be well used and enjoyed by parishioners and visitors alike. The addition of the recently constructed shelter at Breage should allow the field committee to extend its range of activities. The hardworking and dedicated committees that run our parish community centres, hubs and village halls continue to provide an excellent range of activities for our parish and the Council is grateful for their dedication and efforts. The Public Right of Way network throughout the parish has been well maintained over the year with due regard for the wildlife and the flora. All the gullies, culverts and ditches have been maintained on B, C, and unclassified roads under the Lengthsman scheme which is administered by the parish council. This year should see the introduction of the "20 is Plenty" scheme throughout the parish. The scheme hopes that by a reduction in speed to 20 mph in selected areas there will be a corresponding reduction in road traffic accidents and greater environmental gains. Breage parish council is still lobbying Cornwall Council to include Pengersick Lane in the scheme. Planning issues occupy a large part of the agenda at Council meetings and is anticipated to be even busier with the introduction of new housing targets by the incumbent administration and the Planning and Infrastructure bill going through Parliament. The affordable housing target appears to be unachievable for the parish as it is a moving target, always increasing. Breage Parish Council hopes that Cornwall Council, as the owners and operators of the public conveniences at Praa Sands, will be successful in its endeavours to provide a fit for purpose facility for the benefit of both Breage's council taxpayers and our visitors. Breage Parish Council have lobbied both the Member of Parliament and the CEO of Cornwall Council to ensure that toilet

provision becomes a statutory provision for the primary council with appropriate financial provision.

Cornwall Council declared the steps that provide beach access from Praa Green a category 1 failure and that necessitated their removal. Breage Parish Council were successful in negotiations to establish a modest replacement flight of steps to the East of the original. The replacement steps ensure that beach users can exit the beach safely at all states of the tide and removes the significant coastal erosion created by the original steps.

After lengthy and complicated discussion between Cornwall Council and Breage Parish Council, a way forward has been established that will allow a community group the opportunity to rebuild the steps currently under the ownership of Cornwall Council at the centre part of the beach. A finite timeline of four months has been established by Cornwall Council to allow a certified build plan, supporting documents and financial assurances to be put in place and approved by Cornwall Council prior to sign off permission to build. Breage Parish Council wishes the community group well in their endeavour. With the permission to build in place and the time extension delaying the step removal, the way is clear for the Friends of Praa Sands group to proceed with their plans.

The current BPC management and policy documents will ensure that the village green remains a viable community asset for the foreseeable future. Recent repair and refurbishment of FP 54, SW Coastal footpath, has been completed on the steps with further upgrades to commence during the year.

Lower Trevurvas pond continues to thrive as a wildlife haven thanks to the volunteers' efforts to ensure its sustainability. A report is available separately.

I would like to place on record the efforts of those parishioners who make such a positive contribution to making our Parish a better place in which to live and work. Their commitment largely goes unnoticed and I am delighted to be able use this forum to say thank you to them.

Breage Parish Council meets for its ordinary council meetings on the first Tuesday of the month and its Planning and Land Use meeting is on the last Wednesday of each

month: both meetings start at 1900 unless notification is given of an alternative time. We welcome members of the public to attend these meetings.

**Cllr Tony Woodhams Chairman Breage Parish Council.**

---

## **Members of the Council to 05**

**May 2025**

**Cllr Tony Best**  
**Cllr Howard Bradford**  
**Cllr Catherina Oxford Pope**  
**Cllr Chris Ralph**  
**Cllr Rose Rogers**  
**Cllr Gordon Smith**  
**Cllr Matt Southam**  
**Cllr Diana Thomas**  
**Cllr Chris Tyler**  
**Cllr Lynne Tyler**  
**Cllr Tony Woodhams**

---

Nikki Roberts resigned.

She has the Council's best wishes and thanks for her work re. Finance and the Ashton Hub

Resignation was also received from  
Catherina Oxford Pope

**Cornwall Unitary Councillor for the Parish:**  
**Cllr J Keeling MBE now Cllr Jay Hodgetts**  
**following May 2025 Elections.**

**Clerk/RFO:** Mrs Carol Macleod retired 30 April 2025

**Clerk/RFO from 1 May 2025:**

David Rutherford

The Clerk is available at the Parish Council office, by appointment only (due to Health & Safety Regulations)

01326 574781 / 07767165077

[clerk@breagepc.org.uk](mailto:clerk@breagepc.org.uk)

[https:// www.breagepc.org.uk](https://www.breagepc.org.uk)

**PLEASE NOTE THAT THE OFFICE IS  
CLOSED ON FRIDAYS**

---

## **Attendance at Council Meetings**

**2024/2025**

**There has been an Annual Parish Council meeting; 24 Parish Council meetings and an Extraordinary Meeting – a total of 26 meetings this year.**

Cllr Tony Best 18 meetings

Cllr Howard Bradford 17 meetings

Cllr Chris Ralph 13 meetings

Cllr Nicola Roberts 5 meetings

Cllr Rose Rogers 20 meetings

Cllr Matt Southam 17 meetings

Cllr Diana Thomas 21 meetings

Cllr Chris Tyler 12 meetings co-opted 01 October

Cllr Lynn Tyler 12 meetings co-opted 01 October

Cllr Gordon Smith 15 meetings co-opted 03 Sept

Cllr Catherina Oxford-Pope 10 Co-opted 03 Sept

Cllr Tony Woodhams 25 meetings

---

## **Council Meeting dates**

**2025/2026**

Meeting due dates at 7.00 p.m. in the Parish Rooms Breage. Meetings are notified on the Parish notice board outside the Parish Rooms, Breage and on the website

[www.breagepc.org.uk](http://www.breagepc.org.uk) **Planning meetings are held on the Wednesday before the main meeting each month**

1 April 2025 & 30 April 2025 already held

13 May 2025 Annual Parish Meeting 6.30 p.m.

followed by An Annual Parish Council Meeting

28 May 2025

3 June 2025

25 June 2025

1 July 2025

30 July 2025

5 August 2025

27 August 2025

2 September 2025

24 September 2025

7 October 2025

29 October 2025

4 November 2025

26 November 2025

2 December 2025

17 December 2025

6 January 2026

28 January 2026

3 February 2026

25 February 2026

3 March 2026

25 March 2026

## FINANCE

### FINANCIAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR 2024/2025

The Clerk is the Responsible Finance Officer. Cllrs Rogers (Chairman), Bradford, Smith and Thomas were the Members of the Finance and General Purposes (F&GP) Committee 2024/25. Cllr Woodhams as Chairman of Breage Parish Council is an ex-officio Member. Payments and other accounts matters were checked by a Member of the F&GP Committee before being presented to the Council each month. Bank Reconciliations were also checked. The Council's Internal Auditor was Mrs Barbara Goraus. The External Audit will be carried out by BDO LLP.

#### Statement of Accounts 2024/2025

	Income	Balance	Expenses
Opening Balance			
Balance at Bank		144,725.57	
Cash in Hand		150.00	
Salaries	4,042.82		30,507.93
National Insurance Employer			2,547.89
Pension Employer	110.44		659.61
Travel Expenses			304.23
Audit Charges			620.00
Insurance			1,563.33
Office consumables and goods			1,689.36
Electricity Parish Rooms			1,998.39
Telephone/Mobile/Broadband			2,015.40
Water Parish Rooms			123.27
Maint/Repairs/Renewals Parish Rooms			4,487.07
Notice boards/Benches/Signs/Fences/Ph			30.36
Praa Sands/Praa Green			1,418.42
Contracts - Footpaths			5,505.23
South West Coastal Path			2,564.61
Amenity Areas			6,080.64
Grants s137			292.58
Grants			623.50
Subscriptions			300.62
Contracts Grass & Hedge Cutting			6,456.50
Playground & Leisure Equipment			918.41
N461 Remembrance expenses			26.45
Lengthsman work completed			8,732.00
Loan Repayment Streetlight upgrade			5,472.18
Breage Gardening			2,269.18
Staffing Provision	-4,153.26		729.00
Trevurvas Pond costs			525.82
20 is Plenty payments			412.04
Breage Field BBQ area			5,500.00
War Memorials LPA Act 1923 LGA 1948			60.00
Admin			24.14
Precept	90,000.00		
General Admin	7.50		114.50
Grants and Donations	14,300.00		
Footpaths LMP grant	5,052.62		
South West Coastal Path grant	2,560.74		
Bank Interest	2,662.85		
CIL	4,265.94		
Godolphin Shute			1,381.44
Cemetery costs			4,265.09
Cemetery maintenance Capital works			14,500.00
Cemetery fees interments	5,250.00		
Cemetery PWLB Loan			4,644.36
Ashton field costs			414.96
Ashton Field grass cutting			2,282.00
Ashton Christmas Lights in	430.00		
VAT	10,695.00		8,951.94
		135,224.68	131,526.65
135,224.68 – 131,526.65 = 3,698.03 +			
144,725.57 + 150 = 148,573.60			

**Closing balance Receipts and Payments as  
at 31 March 2025**

**148,573.60**

**Bank Accounts: 148,423.60**

**Cash in hand      150.00**

**148,573.60**

**Ashton Amenity Trust Fund interest: separate account 40.96**

**Receipts decreases:** General Admin -£76; Grants and donations, fewer received -£61; No NDP receipts this year -£378; CiL (Community Infrastructure Levy) receipts -£5,900; No Enhanced LMP this year -£2,500; No Cemetery Loan this year -£19,975; Fewer burials and Memorials, Cemetery fees -£10,580; Ashton Amenity Area Trust Fund receipts not included as the account has been taken out of AGAR – £100; VAT refunds -£5,760

Increases: Footpath grants +£516; Bank interest +£829; Ashton Christmas Lights balance not held last year +£430  
Current Clerk retiring on 30 April 2025. New Clerk designate, 16 hours per week part time from 1 January 2025, to become Clerk on 1 May 2025 additional salary, Employer's pension and NI payments +£5,796

Payments: decreases: No Ashton Village Hub building work this year - £22,846; No Cemetery land purchase this year - £20,000; Office goods fewer inks, etc. purchased -£1,070; Website invoice not yet received -£250; Street furniture aluminium notice boards purchased last year -£1,788; Footpaths more work last year - £407; 137 grants fewer this year -£107; Play equipment moved some equipment to another field already containing equipment - £95; N461 large service last year 80<sup>th</sup> year, small one this year -£326; Fence erected for Covid protection last year -£8,075; Less Lengthsman work -£4,293; No Enhanced LMP this year -£2,500; Gardener not so many plants purchased -£112; 20 is plenty less equipment purchased this year: -£713; General admin less -£124; VAT payments less -£6,215

**Increases:** Ashton Field more grass cutting +£144; More Cemetery work done + £844; Cemetery new Cornish hedge +£9,395; War memorials more cleaning +£20; Travel now 2 Clerks +£206; Insurance policy increase +£43; Electricity up +£31; Telephone up +£85; Water up +£55; Parish Rooms maintenance new fire alarm plus IT costs + £2,038; Praa Green more work done this year +£511; SW Coastal path more work this year and contractor's rate has increased +£933; Amenity Areas lots of wood repairs this year +£1,144; Grants more than last year +£524; Subscriptions price increases +£20; Contract grass cutting rate increase and more work +£961; Trevurvas Pond wheelbarrow, plants and waterproofs needed +£484; New shed Breage Field +£5,500; Godolphin Shute lots of repair work and new pipes +£1,333; Breage playground repairs more this year +£538 New loan taken last year for Cemetery land – higher interest and repayments +£4,644

Current Clerk retiring on 30 April 2025. New Clerk designate, part time from 1 January 2025, to become Clerk on 1 May 2025 additional salary, Employer's pension and NI payments +£5,796 New loan taken last year for Cemetery land – higher interest and repayments +£4,644.

Grant payments were awarded as follows: The Royal British Legion was supported by the purchase of wreaths for Remembrance Sunday services, £100 and Breage Band was awarded a £50 grant for playing at the Remembrance Service; £50 to Breage Parochial Church Council towards the cost of the maintenance of the Village clock; £100 to Cornwall Air Ambulance towards help given to Breage Parishioners; £100 to Breage Christmas Lights; £373.50 to Ashton Village Hub towards notice board and £150.00 towards a laptop.

General Fund balance at 31 March 2025 was £62,298.73. Expected receipts for 2025/26 are £123,445.12 and expected payments £111,807.48, based on budget figures.

After the accounts had been examined by an Accounts Team Councillor, Cllr Gordon Smith, they were passed to the Internal Auditor, Mrs Barbara Goraus. The Annual Internal Audit Report 2024/25 was completed on 30 April 2025 and signed by Mrs Goraus who is very much thanked for auditing the accounts, the Breage Field Committee's Accounts and Ashton Hub Accounts this year.

# FOOTPATHS AND RIGHTS OF WAY 2025

Breage Parish has an extensive network of footpaths and bridle ways including a section of the Cornish Coast Path.

These are ranked in sequence from Gold, Silver and Bronze depending on their use. The Coast Path being the top priority as the most used in the Parish.

Breage Parish are paid by the County Council to maintain all these by cutting Gold paths twice a year the Silver once a year, plus checking all way markers and stiles, replacing or repairing when needed.

On occasions when the public request it the paths may receive a third or second cut in order to keep them clear.

When the public inform the parish of concerns, each path is visited by the footpath officer who recommends any remedial work required.

The work is carried out by a contractor, whose team has been clearing and maintaining the pathways for a number of years.

## **Concerns raised by the public 2025.**

**1.** Footpath 12 was overgrown and its surface rocky and uneven making walking difficult. The path was cut for a third time and the individual informed that it could not be resurfaced.

**2.** Footpaths 59,58/1 and 58/2 were overgrown, one stile was rotting and another in the wrong place.

It was recommended the paths 58/2 had a second cut. The member of the public was informed that if they wished they could cut and clear the stiles themselves. They agreed to this. The rotting stile was actually a field gate which is the landowner's responsibility not the Parishes. The incorrectly positioned stile was in the correct place having been built into the stone wall at the time of its construction.

**3.** A tree had fallen across the coast path on Hoe Head. This was cut and removed within a matter of days.

**4.** It was reported there was no stile at the start of Footpath 44 only a gap in the hedge with a single strand of barbed wire across it. The landowner was approached and agreed to put a stile in. This has been done, the stile being supplied by the County Council.

**5.** Footpath 39 was reported to be overgrown after its summer cut. When the landowner was informed they could cut it themselves they agreed to do so.

**6.** Footpath 82 was reported as overgrown. It was cut and cleared by the landowner.

**7.** Coast path 54. It was reported where the footpath left Praa Green near the exercise equipment rainwater had gouged out a deep rannel making the surface difficult to walk on. This was reported to the County Council who have repaired it.

Future Parish concerns with Footpaths and Bridle paths in the parish.

The County Council pays the Parish to cut and maintain the system. They have informed the Council they are recommending saving money by having only the floor of the footpaths cut not the sides.

It is the view of the Footpaths officer this will lead to the rapid decline of the system. Larger plants like gorse, blackthorn, and bramble will grow in blocking the paths.

**Matt Southam, Parish Footpaths Officer. May 2025**



## **BREAGE FIELD COMMITTEE ANNUAL REVIEW AND UPDATE 2024-2025**

We have had a great year this year. As a committee, it has been wonderful to see the fruits of our labour in terms of the new equipment and funding being spent. There is to be the installation of three pieces of sensory equipment/musical apparatus installed in the park. On top of this, we were able to use some funding of our own as well as through the Football Foundation to secure the acquisition of two new goal posts for the field.

We had a very successful Willow Event which utilised willow experts, gardeners and volunteers from the community to be involved in maintaining the willow den and tend to wildflower and other areas of the park. This was a great event with some small donations made for refreshments.

Most recently, we held our Easter Event for the community with over 100 people turn up to complete the egg hunt, craft activities and raffle. Over 70 children and their families braved the rain showers and commented on how lovely the atmosphere and event - we had attendees from Nancegollan, Porthleven, Goldsithney, Helston and Rosudgeon showing the wide reach and support of the event. We secured prizes and eggs from local outlets and supermarkets to ensure that all children received a prize. The event made around £350 and involved support from a fantastic team of volunteers, committee members, gardening group members and Helston Rotary.



### **Harry Pickard – Joint Chair for Breage Field Committee**

The Play equipment in Breage Field is checked quarterly by a Register of Play Inspectors International Ltd qualified inspector and faults are rectified. If anyone notices any faults during the time between the checks please inform the Parish Clerk. The Parish Council owns the field and holds full public liability insurance and has the responsibility for safety checks, hedge trimming and grass cutting.